

Senate Bill No. 1087

Passed the Senate August 31, 2000

Secretary of the Senate

Passed the Assembly August 30, 2000

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2000, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

└

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Section 6217.1 of the Public Resources Code, relating to fish.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1087, Sher. Salmon and Steelhead Trout Restoration Account.

(1) Existing law provides for the Salmon and Steelhead Trout Restoration Account in the Resources Trust Fund and requires not less than 65% of the money in the account to be used for salmon habitat protection and restoration projects. Of that amount, existing law requires at least 75% to be used for watershed (upslope) and riparian area protection and restoration activities.

This bill would specify that those activities may include grants to remove substandard culverts, stream crossings, and bridges that constitute barriers to spawning of salmon and steelhead and passage of fish.

(2) Existing law requires up to 35% of the money in the account to be allocated for other specified uses, including California Forestry Incentive Program (CFIP) projects that meet CFIP guidelines.

This bill, instead, would include within the specified uses, fish and wildlife habitat improvements, as defined, that are authorized under the CFIP.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 6217.1 of the Public Resources Code is amended to read:

6217.1. (a) This section and the process described in this section shall govern the expenditure of any funds received by the State of California from the federal government for the purposes of salmon and steelhead conservation and restoration.

(b) For purposes of this section, “project” means an activity that improves fish habitat in coastal waters utilized by salmon and anadromous trout species.



(c) (1) The Department of Fish and Game shall grant funds from the Salmon and Steelhead Trout Restoration Account in the Resources Trust Fund, as follows:

(A) At least 87.5 percent of the funds shall be allocated as project grants through the existing grant program operated by the fisheries management program of the Department of Fish and Game.

(B) Not more than 12.5 percent of the funds may also be used for project contract administration activities and biological support staff.

(2) (A) A project shall require the consent of a willing landowner, and emphasize the development of coordinated watershed improvement activities.

(B) Projects that restore habitat for salmon and anadromous trout species that are eligible for protection as listed or candidate species under state or federal endangered species acts shall be given top funding priority.

(C) Projects shall be cost-effective and treat causes and not symptoms of fish habitat degradation. Projects may implement instream, riparian, water quality, water quantity, and watershed prescriptions and shall be designed to restore the structure and function of fish habitat.

(3) Any grant funds allocated to a project that exceed the actual cost of completing the project shall be returned to the Salmon and Steelhead Trout Restoration Account.

(d) (1) A citizen's advisory committee shall be appointed by the Director of Fish and Game, to give advice on the grant program.

(2) The advisory committee shall consist of seven representatives recommended by the California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead Trout, one representative from the agriculture industry, one representative from the timber industry, one representative of public water agency interests, one academic or research scientist with expertise in anadromous fisheries restoration, and three county supervisors from coastal counties in which anadromous trout exist. The county supervisor members shall be



recommended by the California State Association of Counties.

(3) The advisory committee shall provide oversight of, and recommend priorities for, grant funding under this section. In making funding decisions, the Department of Fish and Game shall consider the project selection priorities established by the advisory committee.

(4) Members of any advisory committee established for these purposes shall be reimbursed for travel and incidental expenses related to the performance of their duties under this section. Reimbursement for the advisory committee created pursuant to this section shall be made from the funds designated in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) of subdivision (c). Reimbursement for other Department of Fish and Game salmon and steelhead advisory committees shall be funded by appropriate sources.

(e) Except as provided in subdivision (f), the money in the Salmon and Steelhead Trout Restoration Account shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Not less than 65 percent of the money shall be used for salmon habitat protection and restoration projects. Of that amount, at least 75 percent shall be used for watershed (upslope) and riparian area protection and restoration activities. These activities may include, but are not limited to, grants to remove substandard culverts, stream crossings, and bridges that constitute barriers to spawning of salmon and steelhead and passage of fish. These funds may also be used for the acquisition, from willing sellers, of conservation easements for riparian buffer strips along coastal rivers and streams to protect salmon and steelhead habitat or for projects that protect and improve water quality and quantity.

(2) Up to 35 percent of the money shall be allocated for any of the following uses:

(A) Watershed evaluation, assessment, and planning necessary to develop a site-specific and clearly prioritized plan to implement watershed improvements.

(B) Multiyear grants for watershed planning and project monitoring and evaluations.



(C) Watershed organization support and assistance.

(D) Project maintenance and monitoring after the project implementations are complete.

(E) Public school watershed and fishery conservation education projects.

(F) Private sector technical training and education project grants, including teaching private landowners about practical means of improving land and water management practices that, if implemented, will contribute to the protection and restoration of salmon stream habitat; scholarship funding for workshops and conferences that teach restoration techniques; operation of nonprofit restoration technical schools; and production of restoration training and education workshops and conferences.

(G) Fish and wildlife habitat improvements, as defined by Section 4793, and authorized under the California Forestry Incentive Program (CFIP).

(H) The salmon restoration project of the California Conservation Corps.

(I) The state's share of the federal Watershed Stewards Program.

(f) The advisory committee may, in any fiscal year, make a recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game to allocate money from the Salmon and Steelhead Trout Restoration Account for the purposes stated in subdivision (e), but in different percentage requirements than the 65/35 split stated in paragraphs (1) and (2) of that subdivision. Following that recommendation, the Director of Fish and Game may suspend the percentage requirements stated in paragraphs (1) and (2) of subdivision (e) for that fiscal year only.



Approved _____, 2000

Governor

